



OCTOBER 2016



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



Fr Adolfo Nicolás – The Man and His Contributions

Dear Brothers,

The entire process of accepting the resignation of our dear Superior General, Fr Adolfo Nicolas, was a moving experience for all of us at GC 36 in Rome. All the GC Electors were overwhelmed by a sense of gratitude to the outgoing leader, for his remarkable contributions during the past 8 years. Soon after his election as Superior General in 2008, he told the members of GC 35, that he had only a short time to serve the Society and accordingly he made efforts to contribute as much as he could, by initiating various steps to implement the Decrees and the Recommendations of GC 35.

During the past five years of my close association with him, he has come across to me as a deeply spiritual person, who is persuasive, insightful, forthright, patient, simple, approachable and adaptable. He was deeply convinced that he should be faithful to St. Ignatius in all his decisions. Thus, while taking decisions he went beyond himself, discerned things in the presence of God, fully realizing that he was carrying out *Missio Dei*. The following are a few aspects that

impressed and inspired me most in his leadership.

First of all, his insistence on **depth** – both spiritual and intellectual -- was highly inspiring to me. He has spoken frequently about this need, which still continues to be a major concern of the whole Society. Although we have also reflected on this aspect in our various meetings and discussions, we need to constantly remind ourselves about this urgent requirement and take steps to deepen our life, our ministries and the level of our commitments to different ministries.

Secondly, Fr Nicolas has given a new push to the concept of **universalism**. Although this concept has always been in existence in the Society, this dimension has received a new emphasis and widespread acceptance, under the leadership of Fr. Nicolas. As a result, there is a greater sense of the Universal Mission and Universal Society, and so greater willingness to share our resources generously - both material and human - and commendable concern for the needs and aspirations of other Provinces, other Conferences and also those of the Universal Society.

Thirdly, responding to the direction given by GC 35, Fr Nicolas undertook the task

of reviewing and renewing the structures of governance both in the Roman Curia and in different Provinces. Under his inspiration and guidance, the JCSA has been engaged in the task of renewing the province structures of the South Asian Assistency. This is an exercise in which all the members of different provinces need to be fully involved. The SAP programmes are meant to help us in this process.

Fr Nicolas has personally visited most of the Provinces of the Society. There was a fear that he might miss Madurai Province, due to certain reasons, although he was always keen on visiting it. It was indeed a great moment of grace, when he actually visited the province a few months ago. Although it was a short visit, most of our province-men were able to see him, listen to him and be inspired by him. Those three days were great moments of joy to all of us. This visit also gave him first-hand knowledge of and insight into our formation work, our ministries and the general ethos of the province.

At this moment we gratefully acknowledge his contributions to the growth of the Society and our own Province. We are particularly grateful to him for his support and approval for the development of new institutions within the Province, such as, Loyola College, Vettavalam, Loyola Academy, Vadamelpakkam, LICET, Chennai), Kalangarai, Nagapattinam), shifting of the Province Curia and the construction of Maduralaya, Loyola College, Mettala, additional facilities for the Senior Jesuits in Beschi Illam, and the Harur Mission.

As GC 36 is about to elect a new Superior General and reflect deeply about our life, our mission and the appropriate governance structures, let us continue to be inspired by the indomitable spirit of Fr Adolfo Nicolas, in going deeper into our life, in examining the depth of our commitment to our varied ministries and in being bold enough to look at the governance structures of the Conference and the Provinces dispassionately, keeping in mind the real apostolic needs within the perspective of the Universal Mission of the Society, without succumbing to extraneous “distractions” about which Fr. Adolfo Nicolas cautioned us frequently.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial



Announcements

New JAAT office-bearers

Fr Provincial has appointed Fr. John Kennedy the Coordinator of JAAT and Fr Anbarasu Mariadoss the Assistant Coordinator.

New Revisor for Sri Lanka

At the request of the Provincial of Sri Lanka, Fr General has appointed Fr Mariadas Siluvaimuthu, SJ, (MDU) (St Joseph's, Trichy), the Revisor of the Sri Lankan province accounts.

Indian Contemplative Retreat

Indian Contemplative Retreat with the Letters of St. Paul and Initiation to Jesus Prayer, guided by Sebastian Painadath, SJ at NBCLC, Bangalore, from 20 Nov AM till 27 Nov PM. For booking contact: 080 - 472369. Email: dirnbclc@yahoo.com.

For MNL Correspondents:

Please send your reports (as Word files) and photographs (as separate jpeg files) on 25 – 29 of the month to mducuria@gmail.com and socius@mdusj.org. Don't paste the photographs on the Word file with your report. Don't make a collage out of the photographs. Don't go for rip or rar files and don't save your photos in Google Drive and force us to seek your permission to access them. Thanks for your service.



They met, they celebrated...

Celebrations, Functions, Courses...

On 15 Sep students of theology at **Arul Kadal** actively participated in the theological Symposium on 'New Directions in Theologizing' organized by DBTC (Don Bosco Theological Centre), Kavaraipattai.

On 08 Sep Fr. M.A. Emmanuel, SJ, Director, JESCCO, met the novices at **Beschi** individually and counseled them as part of his Psycho-Spirituality Course. On 10 Sep we organized a special talk on "Mind Locks" by Fr Sathyan, OFM (Cap), Anugraha College, Nochiodaipatti meant for our senior Jesuits. There was good interaction with the audience after the presentation. Beschi community celebrated St Mother Teresa Day, commemorating her canonization, on 15 Sep along with Maduralaya and St. Mary's Communities. Fr. Xavier Alphonse gave an inspiring homily on the qualities of St. Teresa punctuated with his own personal experiences. After the Mass, we enjoyed a movie on Mother Teresa together with a festive dinner in our lawns.

The finale of **Chennai Mission** Silver Jubilee celebrations was held on 09 July. The thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr Provincial and concelebrated by the former mission coordinators, animators, mission superior and Provincials. After a very short presentation of status report on the implementation of the Province Option by Fr. Jacob and his team and financial status by Dominic and his team, various groups discussed these two themes. The 25 years of history of the Chennai Mission were presented through a short video. In the post lunch session moderated by Fr Maria Arulraja a lot of creative suggestions were presented to make Chennai Mission ministries financially sustainable and to effectively monitor the implementation of the Province option.

The annual pilgrimage to Ellakurichi on 28 Aug and Karam, the tribal festival, celebrated enthusiastically on 18 Sep by Scholastics of all provinces were the highlights of the month at **Clive House, Trichy**. The Scholastics were helped by the session of Dr John Balaiah, psychologist and counselor, on 'Handling Emotions' and the inspiring talk by Fr Felix Joseph on 'Leaders Today.'

Fr M.S. Jacob, Director, **ICRDCE**, was the chief guest at the graduation ceremony of Pravaham Community College, Vellore on 03 Sep. ICRDCE organized a refresher programme on Life Skills for the teachers of the UGC Community Colleges, B.Voc Centres and Kaushal Kendras in Tamil Nadu on 21, 22 Sep at Loyola, Chennai. It was



Arul Kadal



Beschi



Chennai Mission



ICRDCE



attended by 59 participants from 30 organisations.

Fr Vincent Sekhar, **IDCR**, conducted one-day workshops for the students of LICET and LCE on multiculturalism in India. On 18 Sep IDCR and Cluny Interfaith Forum (CLIFF) organized a session in Pondicherry on 'Sanctity & Dignity of Human Life' at which speakers from three different religious traditions spoke. At the end the audience took an oath to respect and revere all forms of life in the planet.



A special lecture on 'Digital Banking' organized by the Department of Commerce (Shift - II) on 29 Aug, an Art Exhibition, 'ARKSPARK' organized by the Department of Visual Communication on 20-22 Sep and a 'Tree Adoption Project' organized by the Forum for Loyola Women Students on 21 Sep were the highlights of the month at **Loyola, Chennai**.



The full-time faculty of **LIBA** underwent a two-day Faculty Development Programme on Counselling Skills given by Fr. M.A. Emmanuel, Director, JESCCO. A Thought Leadership programme on 'GST and Its Ramifications on Logistics Sector' was conducted by the Centre for Supply Chain Management in association with the Operations Club of LIBA. Thirty Fifth Year Alumni Re-union was held in the LIBA premises. LIBAzaar, an initiative of Markit, the Marketing club of LIBA, combined traditional bazaar-style stalls selling products with disguised marketing research projects for corporates.



Fr Ignacimuthu, Director, **ERI**, Loyola inaugurated the national conference on 'Science Pursuit for Students' at Ramachandra University, Chennai on 28 Sep.

LICET celebrated Engineer's Day on 15 Sep with the theme "Engineers in IT Industry." The keynote speaker was Mr. Bright Truman Jose, Manager-Business Development, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai.

On 21 Sep Kavignar Kanimozhi, MP, inaugurated the first floor of the Loyola Women's Hostel at **Loyola, Vettavalam (LCV)**. In her speech she appreciated the Jesuits for their noble service to the rural youth and motivated both the men and women students to strive for equality



and gender sensitivity and to break caste barriers and build communities of love, brotherhood and religious tolerance. Teams from 21 schools participated in the Loyola-Mary Turgay Volleyball Tournament for the school students on 02 Sep, held in the presence of the German couple, Mr Turgay Erinc and Mrs Maria Erinc, benefactors of Chennai Mission. Thanks to the hard work of Fr Poondy Rajan, Director, LMH and LWH, a large number of parents of hostellers attended the Parents Meetings on 17, 18 Sep.

In order to make school students get familiarized with basic science concepts and get interested in scientific research, **Loyola College, Mettala**, (LCM) organized a science exhibition for all the school children in and around Mettala.

SHC, Shembaganur community joined the Ugarte Nagar parishoners for the Eucharist on the feast day Our Lady of Good Health on 24 Sep. Fr J.M.Das, Superior, presided and Fr Arockiasamy gave the homily. **Fr Rinald D'Souza, SJ (GOA)** spent a month with Fr Arulanandam, Director, Archives, and with his staff, educating and training them on preserving, digitizing and cataloguing a huge collection of photographs.

The **St Joseph's, Trichy** community celebrated the Jubilee of two stalwarts, **Fr Susaimanikam**, (60 years in the Society) and **Fr Rex Pai**, (50 years as a Jesuit priest) on 24 Sep with a simple but meaning-laden ceremony.

Frs Arockiaraj and Anandanathan supervised the successful celebration of the annual festival of **St Mary's** Cathedral, Madurai, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows from 09 to 18 Sep with a sound and light programme. On the last day of the novena, the newly ordained Assistant of the Parish, Fr. John Michael, offered his first Mass in the Cathedral.

The September highlights at **Vidyaniketan**, Trivandrum, were the Teachers' Day and the Onam celebrations. The pageantry we witnessed on the last day of the Onam celebrations was a memorable experience. JESA Secretary Fr Sunny Bhai spoke to us about 'Lok Manch' a new Jesuit venture aimed at strengthening leadership at the grassroot level.

Sch. Praveen and Samroy, Juniors at the **Sitaghara (HAZ) Juniorate** are happy to be among the 12 Juniors from 5 Provinces. The classes began on 11 July. The MDU Tertians here, Frs Babu and Fr James, have just finished their month-long Spiritual Exercises and are getting ready for their retreat and hospital experiments.



They have done it!

Something new, something good...

Frs Anbarasu Mariaraj and Godwin Rufus made their final commitment at **AAC, Karumathur** on 08 Sept '16. Fr Provincial received their last vows.

At a workshop on 'System of Meaning in the Subaltern Soil' conducted by FRRC, St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai, students of **Arul Kadal** presented papers based on their field work. They later left for their Rural and Urban Immersion experiences to 13 different places or organizations.

On 24 we had the ground breaking ceremony for the two buildings to be added to the **Beschi** landscape - an annexe to Berchmans (superior's) Block at the western end, that will house a modest hall on the first floor, and on the ground floor, some guest rooms for lay guests, with toilets for men and women and a ground floor building behind the JRS complex, to be the residence of the PDDM Sisters as long as they serve our senior Jesuits at Beschi. Fr Provincial blessed and commenced the work.

Mother Teresa Tailoring Institute, Pondicherry, supervised by the **Chennai Mission** office, had its 9th Graduation Day on 01 Sep. This year's highlight was the presence of Ms Maria Erinc and Mr Turgay Erinc from Germany, who are generously supporting this project. They gave away the certificates and sewing machines to the outgoing students, who gratefully acknowledged all they have received from the Institute.

Chennai Mission office, and particularly, **Fr C. Marianathan** played a big role in seeing to the completion of 10 houses for the poor in Kilpennathur parish. The houses, which were handed over to the people on 17 July, were sponsored by **Fr Francis Anandaraj**, who, through his Housing Project for the poor, has constructed so far 30 houses for people in Ongur and Kilpennathur parishes.

Fr Paul Pragash, Acting Superior, **Clive House**, successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis at Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, on 16 Sep.

Loyola Alumni Association, Chennai inaugurated its Virudhunagar Chapter on 03 Sep. Loyola Counseling Center commemorated the 'World Suicide Prevention



AAC



Arul Kadal



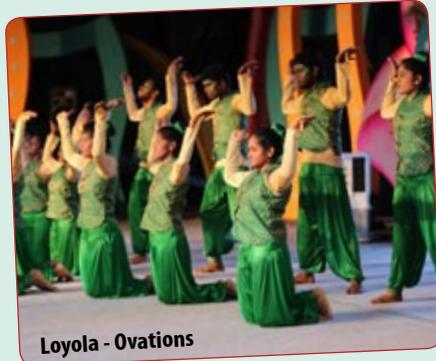
Beschi



Houses for the poor



Loyola Alumni Association



Loyola - Oventions



Loyola - Oventions



LCM

Day' on 09 Sep by creating awareness among the students through street plays and banners in the campus, and offering special prayers with lit candles in the class rooms.

This year was the 25th anniversary of *Oventions*, an annual cultural extravaganza at Loyola, Chennai. At the event on 16,17 Sep 19 teams of various departments participated. All the Deans and office bearers of the Students Union who successfully conducted *Oventions* in the past years were honoured. Shakespearean scenes were acted out to commemorate 400th Death Anniversary of Shakespeare. Loyola Theatre Society (LTS) was also revived on this occasion. 8000 students, 600 staff members and many notable sponsors were part of the event. At the valedictory function, the chief guest, Mrs. Radhika Sarathkumar, distributed the trophies and invited the students to develop their talents and live the God-given life meaningfully.

Another milestone in the history of this new college, **Loyola, Mettala** (LCM) happened on 31 Aug. Loyola Women's Hostel was blessed and inaugurated by Fr Provincial and the Chennai Mission Superior. Fr Provincial also laid the foundation stone for Loyola Men's Hostel.

At an Inter-Religious homage to St Teresa of Kolkata, held on 25 Sep at Stella Maris College, Chennai two books written by **Fr Xavier Alphonse**, St Joseph's, on Mother Teresa – one in English and the other in Tamil (See 'New Books' on p. 10) were released.

Two members of St Mary's, Madurai community, **Frs Soosai Sebastian and G. Packiaraj** went to other States to assess colleges as members of the NAAC Peer Team.

Correspondents:

Benitto, Dominic, James Raja, Jacob, Jay, Jayapathy, Packiaraj, Paul Pragash, Ronald, Sekhar, Tagore, Thangadurai, Viji Bose, Vincy Joe.

Abide with the Lord

- Fr Alphonse Crasta, SJ (CCU), 81/59, on 27 Sep '16 at Kolkata.
- Fr James Shelke, SJ (PUN) 75/ 54, on 22 Sep'16 at Ahmednagar.
- Fr Joseph Mani, SJ (CCU), (57/39) on 15 Sep '16 in Kolkata.
- Mr Joseph, 68, father of Fr John Wilson on 20 Sep '16 at K.M. Kottai.
- Mr Soosai, 80, father of Fr Packiaraj Soosai on 28 Sep at Perumalmalai.
- Mr S. Pangaraj, 73, brother of Br Edward Brunoraj on 01 Oct '16 at Viragalur.



KARIKAMPALLI C. GEORGE, SJ

1930 - 2016

Fr Karikampalli George, called Fr K.C., was born in 1930 at Chekkidikadu, Edathua, Kerala. He joined the novitiate in May 1954, and after his formation, was ordained in 1965. He had an aptitude for social work and so did his Master's in Social Work and joined the M.S.W. Department of Loyola College, Chennai that offered ample avenues for practicing his passion for serving the poor in the slums of Chennai city. He travelled tirelessly despite his physical handicap. He went on to take a law degree and do his doctoral studies in Social Work. He shuttled between Arul Anandar College and Loyola College. Later he was called to serve LIBA. He has had an enviable record as Principal of colleges such as Arul Anandar College (8 years), St Joseph's College, Nagaland (1 year) and Mar Gregorios College, Chennai (Principal & Director - 13 years). He returned to his first love, Arul Anandar College, to be a spiritual guide from 2008 to 2014.

Fr K.C. George came to Beschi Illam as an ailing man recovering from T.B. In due course he was completely cured of T.B. He was quite cheerful and went about the house with a walking stick. He was fond of reading magazines and newspapers and liked to pore over the Catholic Directory. He would make visits to the Blessed Sacrament twice a day. Initially, he was constantly thinking of returning to AAC, Karumathur and visiting his people back home. Mr Vannathamilan, a former non-teaching staff of AAC whom he had educated and appointed in the college, was his faithful friend who would accompany him every time he wanted to go to Kerala, and look after him selflessly like his own father, in the hospitals at Madurai and Dindigul,

and at Beschi Illam.

In the last eight months his health took a turn for the worse as he began to lose his appetite and to be dispirited. He lost his cheerfulness became irritable. Sr Sahayam, who was looking after him with loving concern, tried different homemade concoctions to



improve his appetite and blood count. A bone marrow test done at Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Madurai revealed he was suffering from bone marrow dysfunction. Later the tests confirmed he had leukemia. Although we knew that his end was imminent, his sudden demise on 19 Sep early morning cast a pall of gloom in the community just emerging from the shadow of the unexpected death of Fr Maria Louis two days earlier.

His funeral Mass at 10 30 a.m. on 20 Sep was attended by Jesuits, staff and others from AAC, Karumathur, and representatives from Mar Gregorios College, Chennai, and his relatives from Kerala. The chief celebrant was the Syro-Malankara Bishop Joshua Mar Ignatius of Mavelikara who had worked closely with Fr K.C at Mar Gregorios College, Chennai. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, spoke of the different positions held by Fr KC and the selfless service he rendered to the students and the poor. Fr Francis Vazhappilly, in his homily, stressed his loving, committed service to the poor and to his students and staff. Bishop Joshua and others paid him rich tributes and Fr Tagore thanked his family and those who cared for him at Beschi. Fr K. Amal said the prayer of commendation and Bishop Joshua did the rite of final committal at the cemetery. RIP.

- **Leo A. Tagore, S.J.**

MARIA LOUIS, SJ

1927 - 2016

Fr Maria Louis was born at Rayappanpatti in Madurai district in 1927. After his studies and a short stint as a teacher at St Mary's Elementary School, Madurai, he joined the Jesuit Novitiate at Shembaganur in December, 1951. He did his B.A. (Hons) in Economics and Politics in the Madras Presidency College as a Jesuit scholastic in 1957 - 60. After his priestly formation he was ordained in 1963 and later was sent for his Ph. D in Sociology in the U.S. in 1965 and for biennium in Rome in 1966. After his return from Rome he was assigned to St Paul's Seminary, Trichy in 1968. He was the Rector as well as Dean of Studies for the Philosophers and taught philosophy at St Paul's. After leaving St Paul's he taught Philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur and later at its new avatar, Satya Nilayam, Chennai from 1975 to 1995. He was very popular as a professor, and very humane in his approach to those under his care. He was a voracious reader and therefore, he was quite up-to-date in the subjects he taught.

From 1995 to 1999 he was Socius to the Provincial, Fr Donatus Jeyaraj at Dindigul. After a year's break, he was appointed the Spiritual Director of the scholastics at Arul Kadal, Chennai. He spent a couple of years at Sivaganga Bishop's House as confessor. From 2004 to 2007 he was the resident chaplain at Boys' Town, Pulluthu, Madurai. He moved to LTI, Madurai in the year 2007.



His movements were restricted as a consequence of Parkinson's and a paralytic stroke that he suffered. In 2013 he celebrated his sacerdotal golden jubilee. In May 2014 he was shifted to Beschi Illam, Dindigul where he lived till the end came suddenly on 16 Sep evening. Till about 6 p.m. that day he was quite ok. The nurse had gone at 5 p.m. to check his BP and pulse which were normal. Sr Sahayam had found him lying in his bed at 6 p.m. At 6 45 p.m. the attendant who went to give him milk tried to wake him but there was no sign of life. Sr Sahayam tried to revive him by administering oxygen and heart massage. Our House Doctor, after examining him, pronounced him dead as a result of cardiac arrest.

The funeral at 4 00 p.m. on 17 Sep was attended by a sizable number of his relatives and lay friends, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, representing various congregations whom he had served. The Mass was presided over by Fr Joe Antony, the Socius, in the absence of the Provincial. Fr Maria Singarayar in his homily referred to his simplicity, magnanimity, detachment from his family, gentlemanliness and his great love for the poor and needy. The prayer of commendation was said by Fr Arokiaraj, the Rector, St Paul's Seminary and the final committal rite was performed by Fr Boniface Panna of Satya Niayam. RIP.

- Leo A Tagore, S.J.

Memories

His heart was in India

(From the memoirs of Mr Francois Martin, a French lay man, who became the first Governor of Pondicherry).

This prohibition (not to enter the Marava land), however, could not cool Fr Britto's zeal. While he was looking for some means of helping those new Christians and winning others, he received orders from his Superiors to go to Goa and finally to Portugal for the affairs of the Mission. In 1687 he reached Lisbon where he stayed till 1691. Both his noble mother and his other relations and friends did all they could to detain him but he resisted their affectionate importunities and even the authority of King Pedro, who wished to keep the Reverend Father to appoint him later on as a tutor to the Infante. But his heart was in India and longed for his dear Mission. He was even obliged to have recourse to cunning to embark on the vessels which were leaving for the Indies, and make use of an ingenious deception, which true piety will inspire in godly men for the good of religion, to have himself carried from Lisbon on board the ship about to sail for Goa.

(from Caritas, March 1935)

New Books



***The Spring Returns Not: The Spirit and Message of St Mother Teresa*, Xavier Alphonse, SJ**, New Leader Publications, pp. 370. Price: Rs 200.

***Yezhaigalin Annai Theresa*, Xavier Alphonse, SJ**, Narmada Pathippagam, pp. 165, Price: Rs 100.

***Annaiyin Amutha Mozhigal*, Xavier Irudayaraj, SJ**, Ananda Publishers, pp: 20, Price: Rs.10/-

Just for...



Interviewer: What are your strengths?
Saami: My arms and my back.

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Relationships

You have heard me say: "The deeper your relationships, the more effective your leadership, because people will not follow you if they do not trust you and before someone will lend you a hand, you must touch their hearts." All true success in business – and in life – comes down to high quality, trust-based relationships. So commit yourself to relationship excellence and watch your career and your life soar.

Here are 6 of my best lessons on relationship building:

1. Remember to say please and thank you (good manners connect human hearts).
2. Send out 3 hand-written letters or postcards every day for the rest of your life.
3. Be the first to say sorry when you have made a mistake.
4. Buy 20 copies of your favorite book and send them to those you care about.
5. Keep your little promises and honor your tiny commitments.
6. Be a masterful listener (as deep listening honors the person and says "I value you").

- **Robin Sharma**
(in *The Mastery Manual*)